IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARBOUR COUNTY, ALABAMI

CLAYTON DIVISION

HARRIS LEVESON, an individual; DAVID S. NIX, CLERK
HARRIS PEST & TERMITE CONTROL, INC., a corporation ARBOUR COUNTY, ALABAMA

Plaintiffs,

vs.

PEOPLES COMMUNITY BANK, a corporation; LARRY PITCHFORD, an individual; JERRY GULLEDGE, an individual; Fictitious Defendants "A," "B," and "C," whether singular or plural, that employee, agent or servant of Defendants PEOPLES COMMUNITY BANK, who or which negligently, wantonly and/or willfully contracted with and/or supervised and/or monitored Defendant LARRY PITCHFORD, Defendant JERRY GULLEDGE and/or Fictitious Defendants; Fictitious Defendants "D," "E," and "F," whether singular or plural, that person, firm or corporation who or which concealed, suppressed or failed to inform or otherwise make known to Plaintiff, HARRIS PEST & TERMITE CONTROL, INC. and/or any individual Plaintiff that Plaintiffs' accounts, loans, monies and/or funds were not being properly handled, directed, reimbursed and/or otherwise managed; Fictitious Defendants "G," "H," and "I," whether singular or plural, that person, firm or corporation who or which negligently, wantonly, willfully, fraudulently or otherwise wrongfully engaged and/or participated in the process of mishandling Plaintiffs' accounts, loans, monies and/or funds with which Plaintiffs had entrusted to Defendants; Fictitious Defendants "J," "K," and "L," whether singular or plural, that person, firm or corporation who or which participated in or otherwise did actively or passively aid or abet the wrongdoing set out herein; Fictitious Defendants "M," "N," and "O," whether singular or plural, that person, firm or corporation that is the true and correct name(s) of the Defendants listed herein as Defendant LARRY PITCHFORD, Defendant JERRY GULLEDGE and/or Defendant PEOPLES COMMUNITY BANK;

Defendants.

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff HARRIS PEST TERMITE CONTROL, hereinafter also referred to as "Plaintiff" or "Plaintiff HARRIS

PEST CONTROL", is a corporate entity with its principal place of business in the Clayton Division of Barbour County, Alabama.

- 2. Plaintiff HARRIS LEVESON, hereinafter "Plaintiff," or "Plaintiff LEVESON", is an individual over the age of nineteen (19) years and is a resident of the Clayton Division in Barbour County, Alabama.
- 3. Defendant PEOPLES COMMUNITY BANK, hereinafter "Defendant" or "Defendant PEOPLES BANK," is an Alabama corporation with its principal place of business in Barbour County, Alabama.
- 4. Defendant LARRY PITCHFORD, hereinafter "Defendant" or "Defendant PITCHFORD", is over the age of nineteen (19) years and is a resident of Houston County, Alabama.
- 5. Defendant JERRY GULLEDGE, hereinafter "Defendant" or "Defendant GULLEDGE", is over the age of nineteen (19) years and is a resident of Barbour County, Alabama.
- or plural, are those employees, agents or servants of Defendants PEOPLES COMMUNITY BANK, who or which negligently, wantonly and/or willfully contracted with and/or supervised and/or monitored Defendant LARRY PITCHFORD, Defendant JERRY GULLEDGE and/or Fictitious Defendants; Fictitious Defendants "D," "E," and "F," whether singular or plural, that person, firm or corporation who or which concealed, suppressed or failed to inform or otherwise make known to Plaintiff, HARRIS PEST & TERMITE CONTROL, INC., and/or any individual Plaintiff that Plaintiffs' accounts, loans, monies

and/or funds were not being properly handled, directed, reimbursed and/or otherwise managed; Fictitious Defendants "G," "H," and "I," whether singular or plural, that person, firm or corporation who or which negligently, wantonly, willfully, fraudulently or otherwise wrongfully engaged and/or participated in the process of mishandling Plaintiffs' accounts, loans, monies and/or funds with which Plaintiffs had entrusted to Defendants; Fictitious Defendants "J," "K," and "L," whether singular or plural, are those persons, firms or corporations who or which participated in or otherwise did actively or passively aid or abet the wrongdoing set out herein; Fictitious Defendants "M," "N," and "O," whether singular or plural, those persons, firms or corporations that are the true and correct name(s) of the Defendants listed herein as Defendant LARRY PITCHFORD, Defendant JERRY GULLEDGE and/or Defendant PEOPLES COMMUNITY BANK. Plaintiffs aver that the wrongdoing of the aforesaid Fictitious Defendants proximately caused damage to them. Plaintiffs aver that the identities of the Fictitious Defendants are otherwise unknown to them at this time, or if their names are known to Plaintiffs at this time, their identities as proper party Defendants are not known to Plaintiffs at this time, and their true names will be substituted by amendment when ascertained.

7. On or about September 2003, Plaintiff HARRIS LEVESON, individually and doing business as HARRIS PEST & TERMITE CONTROL, INC., was contacted by Defendant PEOPLES BANK, by and though its agent/employee Kevin Potthoff, regarding the possibility of

Plaintiff LEVESON and/or Plaintiff HARRIS PEST CONTROL doing business with Defendant PEOPLES BANK. Defendant PEOPLES BANK represented that it would finance various loans, accounts and/or other lines of credit to Plaintiffs at certain rates, terms, amounts and conditions. As a result of these representations by Defendant, Plaintiffs agreed to and did enter into certain contracts and/or agreements with Defendants for various loans, accounts, lines of credit and other financial services with and/or through Defendants.

8 -On or about September 2003, Plaintiff signed loan documents with Defendant PEOPLES BANK, which were based on certain rates, terms, amounts and conditions. On or about October 2003, Plaintiffs received documents from Defendant PEOPLES BANK pertaining to said loans; however, these documents were incomplete, incorrect and inconsistent with the rates, terms, amounts and/or conditions of the documents which had been shown to Plaintiffs and for which Plaintiffs previously agreed upon and entered into with Defendant for said loans. Plaintiffs promptly notified Kevin Potthoff and Defendant PEOPLES BANK of the discrepancies in the loan documents and that the loan documents were incomplete, incorrect and otherwise inconsistent. However, Defendant PEOPLES BANK failed or otherwise refused to adequately and/or reasonably respond to or otherwise remedy the issues regarding the discrepancies. Plaintiffs repeatedly informed Defendants of these discrepancies.

- 9. On or about October 2003, Plaintiffs received the first coupon book for monthly payment on the loans which Plaintiffs had obtained in September 2003 with Defendant PEOPLES BANK. The amount of the payment as stated in the coupon book was substantially higher than the payment amount that Plaintiffs had agreed to in obtaining the loans. Plaintiffs notified Defendants of these discrepancies and inconsistencies, but Defendants failed and/or otherwise refused to correct or remedy the problems.
 - 10. On or about September 2003, Plaintiffs agreed to and did enter into a contract and/or agreement with Defendant PEOPLES BANK whereby Defendant agreed to extend the line of credit on an already existing loan that Plaintiffs had with Defendant. Plaintiffs informed Defendant PEOPLES BANK that the primary purpose for extending the line of credit on this loan was to provide for and make available additional funds in the form of a business and/or expense draw which could then be drawn and placed into Plaintiffs' existing checking account.
 - 11. Plaintiffs would inform Defendant PEOPLES BANK that they needed draws off of this line of credit amount so as to make various payments and expenditures from their checking account. Defendant PEOPLES BANK represented to Plaintiffs that these draws had been successfully completed. However, Plaintiffs later determined that Defendant PEOPLES BANK had negligently, wantonly, willfully, fraudulently and/or otherwise wrongfully failed to extend the amount of the line of credit as agreed upon, and had

therefore failed and/or otherwise refused to draw money from the line of credit amount and place into Plaintiffs' checking account as Defendants had represented.

- 12. As a result of Defendants' negligence, wantonness, willfulness, fraud and/or otherwise wrongful conduct in failing to extend the amount of the Plaintiffs' line of credit as Defendants had represented, and thereby failing and/or otherwise refusing to successfully complete these draws from the line of credit/business draw into Plaintiffs' checking account, Plaintiffs' checking account became insufficient, causing numerous checks that Plaintiffs had issued to persons and entities not to clear due to such insufficient funds. Defendants wrongfully withdrew funds from Plaintiffs' accounts without adequate cause or justification. Therefore, Plaintiffs incurred substantial overdraft charges and fees as a result.
- discrepancies in the loan documents and that the loan documents were incomplete, incorrect and otherwise inconsistent. Plaintiffs also continued to inform Defendants of other problems with their loans, lines of credit, checking accounts and other service related issues with Defendants. However, Defendants failed, dismissed and/or otherwise refused to correct or remedy such problems that Plaintiffs complained of, but instead Defendants harassed, threatened, ridiculed and otherwise rejected Plaintiffs and their complaints.

14. At the time the incidents made the basis of this lawsuit occurred, Kevin Potthoff, JERRY GULLEDGE, LARRY PITCHFORD and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS were agents, employees and/or servants of Defendant PEOPLES COMMUNITY BANK, and were acting within the line and scope of their agency and/or employment with Defendant PEOPLES COMMUNITY BANK. Defendant PEOPLES COMMUNITY BANK, as employer and principal over Kevin Potthoff, JERRY GULLEDGE, LARRY PITCHFORD and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS who were agents or employees of Defendant PEOPLES COMMUNITY BANK working within the line and scope of their agency or employment, are vicariously liable for the acts of its agents or employees under the doctrine of respondeat superior.

COUNT ONE

NEGLIGENCE/WANTONNESS/WILLFULNESS

- 1. Plaintiffs reallege all previous allegations contained in this Complaint.
- 2. Plaintiffs aver that Defendants PEOPLES COMMUNITY BANK, LARRY PITCHFORD, JERRY GULLEDGE and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O" were negligent, wanton and/or willful in that they failed to reasonably account for funds, property and/or payments regarding Plaintiffs' bank accounts, lines of credit and/or loans which Plaintiffs with and had through Defendant PEOPLES BANK.
- 3. Defendants were negligent, wanton and/or willful in that they failed to provide reasonable and/or adequate financial banking

services to Plaintiffs.

- 4. Plaintiffs allege that Defendants PEOPLES BANK, PITCHFORD, GULLEDGE and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O" were negligent, wanton and/or willful in the manner of service that said Defendants provided to Plaintiffs with regard to handling payments, monies, properties and/or other funds relating to Plaintiffs' accounts and loans that Plaintiffs had with and/or through said Defendants. Specifically, Defendant PEOPLES BANK, by and through its agents and employees, failed to send, convey, execute, service and/or otherwise handle payments, collateral and/or other funds regarding the Plaintiffs' accounts, lines of credit and/or loans with the Defendants.
- Plaintiffs further allege that said Defendants negligently, wantonly and/or willfully failed to provide reasonable and/or adequate service to Plaintiffs concerning Plaintiffs' checking accounts, lines of credit, loans and related monies, funds and/or collateral with Defendants, including FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O." Specifically, Defendants, by and through its agents and/or employees, including but not limited to Defendants PITCHFORD, GULLEDGE and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O", repeatedly failed and/or otherwise refused to adequately or reasonably hold, transfer, deliver, convey and/or otherwise account for monies, payments, property, funds and/or related documents delivered to Defendants by Plaintiffs for the purposes of having Defendants maintain, handle and account for said monies, payments,

property, funds and/or relating documents, even though Defendants knew or should have known of the critical and eminent nature of reasonably and adequately maintaining, handling and accounting for the same. Defendants negligently, wantonly and/or willfully failed to keep and maintain adequate information and records concerning the Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' accounts and/or loans by and through the Defendants. Defendants negligently, wantonly and/or willfully failed to reasonably deliver, convey, transfer and/or refund payments and/or monies to and from the various accounts with which Plaintiffs had with Defendants.

- 6. Defendants further negligently, wantonly and/or willfully failed to adequately and/or reasonable inform, notify and/or otherwise communicate certain material information to Plaintiffs concerning the status of Plaintiffs' accounts, lines of credit and/or loans with Defendants even though Defendants were under a duty to communicate such material information because there existed a confidential relationship and/or other special circumstances giving rise to such duty in that Defendants either had particular or special knowledge or had a means of receiving said information not shared by Plaintiffs.
- 7. As a proximate result of the aforesaid negligence, wantonness and/or willfulness of the Defendants, including FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O", Plaintiffs suffered as follows:
 - (a) Plaintiffs' were caused to be charged higher

interest rates on said loans they obtained through Defendants, thereby causing Plaintiffs to expend additional monies, fees and other costs, as well as causing Plaintiffs to lose the use and benefit of said loans and proceeds therefrom;

- (b) Plaintiffs were caused to lose the use, benefit and value of Plaintiff's real property, which was wrongfully included as collateral for loans and lines of credit with and through Defendants, causing Plaintiffs to expend additional monies, fees and other costs, as well as causing Plaintiffs to lose the use and benefit of said loans and/or lines of credit and the real property wrongfully designated as collateral for said loan;
- (c) Plaintiffs lost the use of monies and funds that Plaintiffs placed and held in their accounts with Defendants, and thereby entrusting Defendants with said accounts, when said monies and funds were not reasonably or adequately maintained, but were instead misused, misappropriated, converted and/or otherwise mishandled;
- (d) Plaintiffs will incur expenses necessitated by the filing of this lawsuit;
- (e) Plaintiffs incurred substantial economic loss in paying monies, properties and/or funds to Defendants for which Plaintiffs never received the full use and benefit from;
- (f) Plaintiffs have suffered tremendous damage to their reputations;
 - (g) Plaintiff LEVESON was caused to suffer anxiety, worry, humiliation, mental and emotional distress and other incidental damages.
- 8. Defendants consciously or deliberately engaged in oppression, fraud, wantonness or malice with regard to Plaintiffs, thereby depriving Plaintiffs of legal rights and entitling Plaintiffs to punitive damages against Defendants.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendants,

including FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS, for damages, plus interest and all costs of these proceedings, in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional minimum of this Court.

COUNT TWO

FRAUD/MISREPRESENTATION

- Plaintiffs reallege all previous allegations contained in this Complaint.
- 2. Plaintiffs allege that Defendants PEOPLES COMMUNITY BANK and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O" are guilty of fraud and misrepresentation. The misrepresentations referred to herein were made by Defendant PEOPLES BANK, by and through its employees, agents, servants or representatives, including but not limited to Kevin Potthoff, acting within the line and scope of their capacity of said principal and employer, and in furtherance of the business interest of Defendants. Said misrepresentations would include, but would not necessarily be limited to, the following:
 - (a) That Defendants would and did finance a loan or loans for Plaintiffs at certain specific rates, terms, amounts and conditions, when in fact Defendants financed said loan(s) at rates, terms, amounts and conditions that were different and inconsistent from what Defendants had represented to Plaintiffs;
 - (b) That Defendants would and did finance two parcels of Plaintiffs' real property in consideration for certain proceeds of the loan or loans, when in fact Defendants wrongfully financed four parcels of Plaintiffs' real property in consideration for the same amount of said loan proceeds without Plaintiffs' permission;

- (c) That Defendants would and did increase the amount of one of the Plaintiffs' loans from \$15,559.50 to \$25,000.00, when in fact Defendants did not increase said loan amount as was represented to Plaintiffs;
- (d) That Defendants would reasonably and properly handle, maintain, oversee, protect, possess and/or otherwise account for Plaintiffs' accounts, lines of credit and/or loans, as well as the funds, monies, payments, property, currencies, notes, drafts and/or other documents pertaining to said accounts and/or loans that Plaintiffs had with, by and through Defendants PEOPLES BANK; and,
- (e) That Defendants would act with honesty and in good faith in and throughout the process of obtaining, maintaining, overseeing, protecting, possessing, accounting for and/or otherwise handling Plaintiffs accounts and/or loans with Defendant PEOPLES BANK.
- 3. These misrepresentations were made by the Defendants negligently, wantonly, recklessly, willfully and/or intentionally. Defendants' representations were false and Defendants knew they were false; or Defendants recklessly misrepresented the facts, without true knowledge thereof; or Defendants misrepresented the facts by mistake but did so with the intention that Plaintiffs rely upon them.
- 4. Plaintiffs allege that their injuries and damages were caused as a proximate result and consequence of the intentional, willful, wanton, willful and/or reckless misrepresentations made by the Defendants, including FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O" and the Plaintiffs' reasonable and/or justifiable reliance upon these misrepresentations.
- Defendants consciously or deliberately engaged in oppression, fraud, wantonness or malice with regard to Plaintiffs,

thereby depriving Plaintiffs of legal rights and entitling Plaintiffs to punitive damages against Defendants.

- 6. Plaintiffs further aver that Defendants are guilty of conduct evidencing a pattern or practice of intentional misconduct or are guilty of conduct involving actual malice. Defendant PEOPLES BANK authorized or ratified the conduct of its employees, agents, servants or representatives, including but not limited to Kevin Potthoff and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O" or the acts of said persons and/or Defendants were calculated to or did benefit Defendant PEOPLES BANK and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O."
- Plaintiffs aver that the misrepresentations made by the Defendants were intentional, willful, wanton and/or reckless and constitute fraud under the laws of the State of Alabama, §§ 6-5-100, 6-5-101, 6-5-102 of the Code of Alabama (1975). · Defendants knew that except for these misstatements, misrepresentations and/or other wrongful acts, the Plaintiffs would not have relied on said misrepresentations, but would have acted otherwise to ensure that its finances, moneys, property and/or funds maintained and/or overseen by and through Defendants were otherwise adequately maintained, overseen, protected, possessed, accounted for and/or otherwise handled in a manner so as to provide Plaintiffs with adequate and sufficient financial services and protections.
 - 8. Plaintiffs aver that as a direct, proximate and

foreseeable result of the aforesaid fraudulent misrepresentations and other wrongful conduct, Plaintiffs have been damaged as previously set forth herein.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendant PEOPLES BANK, including FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS, for damages, plus interest and all costs of these proceedings, in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional minimum of this Court.

COUNT THREE

FRAUD/SUPPRESSION

- 1. Plaintiffs reallege all previous allegations contained in this Complaint.
- 2. Plaintiffs aver that on numerous occasions, Defendants PEOPLES COMMUNITY BANK and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O", by and through its employees, agents, servants or representatives, including but not limited to Kevin Potthoff, acting within the line and scope of their capacity of said principal and employer, and in furtherance of the business interest of said Defendant, suppressed material facts from Plaintiffs by and through their misrepresentations and suppressions of material facts concerning the Plaintiffs' finances, monies, property, funds and/or loans with which Plaintiffs entrusted to Defendants, and which are made the basis of this lawsuit, to wit: Defendants PEOPLES COMMUNITY BANK and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O" knowingly, willfully and/or wantonly suppressed from Plaintiffs the

fact that Plaintiffs' finances, monies, property, accounts, funds and/or loans were not being properly handled or maintained, thereby causing Plaintiffs' accounts with Defendant PEOPLES BANK to become insufficient and overdrawn. Defendants further knowingly, willfully and/or wantonly suppressed from Plaintiffs certain material facts concerning the terms, amounts and conditions of Plaintiffs' accounts, lines of credit and loans with and though Defendants, as well as the real property which Plaintiffs used as collateral for said loans.

- Defendants suppressed the material facts set forth above with the intent to cause and/or induce the Plaintiffs to rely on Defendants' suppression thereby allowing Plaintiffs' finances, monies, accounts, property, funds and/or loans that Plaintiffs had with Defendant PEOPLES BANK to become incorrect, insufficient The failure of the Defendants to inform the and/or overdrawn. Plaintiffs of the fact that Plaintiffs' finances, monies, accounts, property, funds and/or loans were not being adequately and/or properly handled or maintained, when the Defendants knew that said accounts, monies, property, finances, loans and/or funds were not being adequately maintained and/or handled, and the fact that the Defendants failed to disclose such facts to the Plaintiffs, was a suppression of material facts, which the Defendants had a duty to communicate to the Plaintiffs. The Defendants' suppression constitutes legal fraud.
 - 4. Plaintiffs allege that the Defendants' actions are a

violation of § 6-5-102 of the Alabama Code (1975).

- 5. Defendants consciously or deliberately engaged in oppression, fraud, wantonness or malice with regard to Plaintiffs, thereby depriving Plaintiffs of legal rights and entitling Plaintiffs to punitive damages against Defendants.
- 6. Plaintiffs further aver that Defendants are guilty of conduct evidencing a pattern or practice of intentional misconduct or are guilty of conduct involving actual malice. Defendant PEOPLES BANK authorized or ratified the conduct of its agents, employees, servants and/or representatives, including but not limited to Kevin Potthoff and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O", or the acts of said persons and/or Defendants were calculated to or did benefit Defendants PEOPLES BANK and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O."
- 7. Plaintiffs aver that as a direct, proximate, and foreseeable result of the Defendants', including FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O" aforesaid suppression of material facts and other wrongful conduct, Plaintiffs have been damaged as previously set forth herein.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendant PEOPLES BANK, including FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS, for damages, plus interest and all costs of these proceedings, in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional minimum of this Court.

COUNT FOUR

DECEIT

- 1. Plaintiffs reallege all previous allegations contained in this Complaint.
- 2. Plaintiffs aver that on numerous occasions, Defendants PEOPLES BANK and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O", by and through its employees, agents, servants or representatives, including but not limited to Kevin Potthoff, acting within the line and scope of their capacity of said principal and employer, and in furtherance of the business interest of said Defendant, intentionally and/or willfully misrepresented material facts concerning the status of the Plaintiffs' accounts, monies, property, finances, loans, funds and/or other issues relating to the bank accounts, lines of credit and/or loans that Plaintiffs obtained through the Defendants, and which are made the basis of this lawsuit. Specifically, Defendants knowingly, willfully and/or wantonly misrepresented to Plaintiffs that Defendants would reasonably and adequately handle, maintain and oversee Plaintiffs' finances, monies, accounts, property, funds and/or loans, when in fact Defendants failed to reasonably and/or adequately do so; Defendants knowingly, willfully and/or wantonly misrepresented to Plaintiffs that Defendants would reasonably and/or adequately maintain, oversee and otherwise handle Plaintiffs' accounts with Defendant PEOPLES BANK even though Defendants were not reasonably

and/or adequately doing so, thereby causing Plaintiffs' finances, monies, accounts, funds, property and/or loans that Plaintiffs had with Defendant PEOPLES BANK to become incomplete, incorrect, insufficient and/or overdrawn; and, Defendants knowingly, willfully and/or wantonly misrepresented to Plaintiffs that Defendants would in act with honesty and in good faith in dealing with and handling, maintaining and/or servicing Plaintiffs accounts with said Defendants. Defendants knowingly, willfully and/or wantonly misrepresented to Plaintiffs that Plaintiffs had certain sums of monies or funds financed at certain rates for certain periods of time, when in fact Defendants knew or should have known that such certain financing terms as was represented to Plaintiffs by Defendants did not exist and/or were otherwise not as Defendants had previously represented to Plaintiffs.

3. At the aforesaid times, the Defendants knew that they were not rightfully and/or lawfully disclosing pertinent information to Plaintiffs regarding Plaintiffs' finances, monies, accounts, funds, property and/or loans, and such terms thereunder, that Plaintiffs obtained through Defendants, and that they were fraudulently suppressing such information, yet nevertheless knowingly, willfully and/or recklessly deceived the Plaintiffs with the intent to cause and/or induce Plaintiffs to rely on Defendants' suppression thereby allowing Plaintiffs' finances, monies, accounts, funds, property and/or loans that Plaintiffs had with Defendant PEOPLES BANK to become incomplete, insufficient,

incorrect and/or overdrawn, and also allowing Plaintiffs to incur substantial loss of monies, property and/or funds as a result thereof.

- 4. At the aforesaid times, the Defendants asserted the aforesaid material facts as true, when they were not true, and Defendants knew the asserted facts not to be true at the time the Defendants made such assertions to Plaintiffs. At the aforesaid times, the Defendants fraudulently expressed, coerced, and misrepresented facts to the Plaintiffs concerning the Plaintiffs' finances, monies, accounts, funds, property and/or loans, and such terms thereunder, and which Plaintiffs obtained through Defendants and for which are made the basis of this lawsuit. Therefore, the Defendants violated §§ 6-5-103 and 6-5-104, Code of Alabama, (1975).
- 5. Plaintiffs aver that Plaintiffs acted upon, and reasonably relied upon, the Defendants' misrepresentations to their detriment and that as a direct, proximate, and foreseeable result of the Defendants' aforesaid fraudulent misrepresentations and other wrongful conduct, Plaintiffs have been damaged as previously set forth herein.
- 6. Defendants consciously or deliberately engaged in oppression, fraud, wantonness or malice with regard to Plaintiffs, thereby depriving Plaintiffs of legal rights and entitling Plaintiffs to punitive damages against Defendants.
 - 7. Plaintiffs further aver that Defendants are guilty of

conduct evidencing a pattern or practice of intentional misconduct or are guilty of conduct involving actual malice. Defendant PEOPLES BANK authorized or ratified the conduct of its agents, employees, servants and/or representatives, including but not limited to Kevin Potthoff and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O", or the acts of said persons and/or Defendants were calculated to or did benefit Defendants PEOPLES BANK and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O."

8. Plaintiffs aver that as a direct, proximate, and foreseeable result of the Defendants', including FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O" aforesaid wrongful conduct, Plaintiffs have been damaged as previously set forth herein.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendant PEOPLES BANK, including FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS, for damages, plus interest and all costs of these proceedings, in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional minimum of this Court.

COUNT FIVE

BREACH OF CONTRACT

- 1. Plaintiffs reallege all previous allegations contained in this Complaint.
- 2. Plaintiffs aver that there existed express and/or implied contracts and/or agreements between Plaintiffs and Defendants wherein for good and valuable consideration paid or otherwise tendered by Plaintiffs, Defendants contracted and/or otherwise

agreed to act as agent for Plaintiffs in reasonably procuring, obtaining, handling, maintaining and/or otherwise overseeing financial accounts, lines of credit, loans and/or other financial services for Plaintiffs. There also existed express and/or implied contracts and/or agreements between Plaintiffs and Defendants, whereby for good and valuable consideration paid or otherwise tendered by Plaintiffs, Defendants contracted and/or agreed to reasonably and/or adequately provide and maintain current and adequate bank accounts, lines of credit, loans and/or other

financial services to and for Plaintiffs.

- 3. Plaintiffs aver that Defendants have breached said contracts and/or agreements with Plaintiffs, in that Defendants have failed to reasonably and adequately procure, obtain, handle, maintain and/or otherwise oversee bank accounts, lines of credit, loans and/or other financial services, as well as monies, funds, property and/or terms therein, for Plaintiffs, thereby failing to perform under said express and/or implied contracts and/or agreements. Defendants have further breached said contracts and/or agreements by failing to reasonably and/or adequately provide and maintain bank accounts, lines of credit, loans and/or other financial services, as well as monies, funds, property and/or terms therein to and for Plaintiffs.
- 4. Said agreements and/or contracts as stated above were binding contracts between the Plaintiffs and the Defendants. Plaintiffs aver that the Defendants breached said agreements and/or

contracts in that the Defendants failed to provide and/or perform adequate, reasonable and/or competent service for Plaintiffs as Plaintiffs' banker and financial banking institution.

5. Plaintiffs aver that as a direct, proximate, and foreseeable result of the Defendants', including FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O" breach of said agreements and/or contracts, Plaintiffs have been damaged as previously set forth herein.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendant PEOPLES BANK, including FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS, for damages, plus interest and all costs of these proceedings, in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional minimum of this Court.

COUNT SIX

BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTIES

- 1. Plaintiffs reallege all allegations contained in this Complaint as if fully set out herein.
- 2. Plaintiffs allege that an express and/or implied agency relationship existed between Plaintiffs and Defendants PEOPLES BANK, PITCHFORD, GULLEDGE and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O" as its agents. Defendants PEOPLES BANK, PITCHFORD, GULLEDGE and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O" were agents of, and for the Plaintiffs, and thus owed Plaintiffs fiduciary duties to fully inform, communicate, warn, and disclose material facts concerning the accounts, loans and/or funds or property relating

thereto made the basis of this lawsuit. Defendants PEOPLES BANK, PITCHFORD, GULLEDGE and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O" further had a fiduciary duty, as sole and exclusive agents and representatives of, and for the Plaintiffs, to be completely loyal and faithful to the Plaintiffs, and to provide adequate and/or reasonable financial banking services to Plaintiffs honestly and in good faith.

- further allege that there 3. Plaintiffs existed confidential and special relationship between the Plaintiffs and Defendants PEOPLES BANK, PITCHFORD, GULLEDGE and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O" with regard to said Defendants' performance and handling of accounts, loans, financing and/or other related services for, and on behalf of, the Plaintiffs. Defendants PEOPLES BANK, PITCHFORD, GULLEDGE and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A," through "O" had special and specific knowledge of specific and material facts and circumstances concerning Plaintiffs and their need for various financial services. Defendants' PITCHFORD and/or GULLEDGE special and specific knowledge as stated above was imputed to Defendant PEOPLES BANK, as Defendants' PITCHFORD and/or GULLEDGE principal and/or employer. This confidential and special relationship between the Plaintiffs and Defendants, as well as the other special and particular circumstances stated herein, further created and imposed a fiduciary duty upon the Defendants.
- 4. Defendants PEOPLES BANK, PITCHFORD, GULLEDGE and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O" breached their fiduciary

duties owed to the Plaintiffs with regard to their performance of financial banking services for Plaintiffs relating to the various financial accounts, lines of credit and loans, as well as related terms, monies, property and/or funds made the basis of this Specifically, Defendants PEOPLES BANK, lawsuit. PITCHFORD, GULLEDGE and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O", knowingly, willfully and/or wantonly breached their fiduciary duty to Plaintiffs by failing to act with honesty and in good faith with regard to the handling and management of various financial services, property, loans and/or funds of which Defendants made representations to Plaintiffs and which are made the basis of this lawsuit. Defendants further breached their fiduciary duty to Plaintiffs by failing to be completely loyal and faithful to the Plaintiffs, and by failing to provide services to Plaintiffs honestly and in good faith.

5. Defendants knowingly, willfully and/or wantonly breached their fiduciary duty to Plaintiffs by failing to disclose the material facts set forth above with the intent to induce the Plaintiffs to pay, entrust and/or tender monies, property, collateral and/or funds to Defendants for various banking accounts, lines of credit and loans made the basis of this lawsuit, and Plaintiffs did in fact make payments and/or otherwise tender consideration and/or collateral to Defendants for said banking accounts and loans, as well as the services related thereto, for which Defendants failed to adequately maintain, handle, manage

and/or oversee as was represented by Defendants, based on the Defendants' failure to disclose such material facts to Plaintiffs.

- 6. The failure of the Defendants to inform the Plaintiffs of the fact that Plaintiffs' banking accounts, lines of credit and loans with Defendant PEOPLES BANK would not be adequately or properly set up, administered, charged or otherwise handled in the same manner as was represented to Plaintiffs by Defendants, when the Defendants knew or should have known the same, and the fact that the Defendants failed to communicate and disclose such facts to the Plaintiffs, was a breach of their fiduciary duty, which the Defendants owed to the Plaintiffs.
- 7. Plaintiffs allege that the Defendants' actions are a violation of § 6-5-102 of the Alabama Code (1975).
- 8. Plaintiffs aver that as a direct, proximate, and foreseeable result of the Defendants', including FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS, aforesaid breach of fiduciary duties and other wrongful conduct, Plaintiffs have been damaged as previously set forth herein.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendants, including FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS, for damages, plus interest and all costs of these proceedings, in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional minimum of this Court.

COUNT SEVEN

CONVERSION

- 1. Plaintiffs reallege all allegations contained in this Complaint as if fully set out herein.
- 2. Plaintiffs allege that Defendants PEOPLES BANK, PITCHFORD, GULLEDGE and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O" wrongfully converted payments, monies, funds, collateral, property and other valuables of the Plaintiffs from Plaintiffs' banking accounts, lines of credit and/or loans with Defendant PEOPLES BANK, to and/or for their own use.
- 3. Plaintiffs aver that Defendants converted such value wantonly and recklessly, in knowing violation of Plaintiffs' rights and in violation of law, and that Plaintiffs are entitled to punitive damages.
- 4. At all times hereinabove mentioned, Defendants PITCHFORD, GULLEDGE and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O" were agents of Defendant PEOPLES BANK and were acting within the line and scope of their agency and actual or apparent authority.
- 5. Defendants PEOPLES BANK impliedly authorized or ratified the conduct of its agents, employees, servants and/or representatives, including but not limited to Kevin Potthoff, LARRY PITCHFORD, JERRY GULLEDGE and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O", or the acts of said persons and/or Defendants were calculated to or did benefit Defendants PEOPLES BANK and/or FICTITIOUS

DEFENDANTS "A" through "O."

- 6. At all time hereinabove mentioned, FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O" were agents and/or employees of Defendants PEOPLES BANK, and were acting within the line and scope of their agency and/or employment with said Defendants with actual or apparent authority.
- 7. Defendants PEOPLES BANK impliedly authorized or ratified the conduct of said FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O" or the acts of said FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O" were calculated to or did benefit said Defendants.
- 8. Plaintiffs aver that as a direct, proximate, and foreseeable result of the Defendants', including FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O" aforesaid wanton, reckless other otherwise wrongful conversion of Plaintiffs' payments, monies, funds, collateral, property and other valuables, Plaintiffs have been damaged as previously set forth herein.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendants, including FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS, for damages, plus interest and all costs of these proceedings, in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional minimum of this Court.

COUNT EIGHT

NEGLIGENT HIRING, RETENTION and SUPERVISION

 Plaintiffs reallege all previous allegations contained in this Complaint.

- 2. Plaintiffs aver that Defendants PEOPLES BANK and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O" negligently, wantonly and/or willfully hired and retained its agents, employees, servants, and/or contractors, including but not limited to Kevin Potthoff, LARRY PITCHFORD, JERRY GULLEDGE and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O."
- 3. Defendants further negligently, wantonly and/or willfully failed to adequately train, supervise and/or monitor the activities of Kevin Potthoff, LARRY PITCHFORD, JERRY GULLEDGE and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O" and negligently, wantonly and/or willfully failed to detect and/or deter the fraudulent activities conduct by its agents, employees, servants and/or contractors, including but not limited to Defendants PITCHFORD, GULLEDGE and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O."
- 4. The negligence, wantonness and/or willfulness of the Defendants, including FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O", was the proximate and/or combined and concurring cause of Plaintiffs' damages as set forth herein.
- 5. As a result of Defendants' PEOPLES BANK and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O" negligence, wantonness, and/or willfulness, Kevin Potthoff, LARRY PITCHFORD, JERRY GULLEDGE and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O" consciously or deliberately engaged in oppression, fraud, wantonness or malice with regard to Plaintiffs, thereby depriving Plaintiffs of their legal rights.

- 6. Plaintiffs further aver that Defendants are guilty of conduct evidencing a pattern or practice of intentional misconduct or are guilty of conduct involving actual malice. Defendants PEOPLES BANK and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O" authorized or ratified the conduct of its agents and employees, including Defendants PITCHFORD, GULLEDGE and/or FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS "A" through "O" or the acts of said Defendants and/or their agents or employees were calculated to or did benefit said Defendants.
- 7. Plaintiffs aver that as a direct, proximate, and foreseeable result of the Defendants', including FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS', aforesaid negligence and other wrongful conduct, Plaintiffs have been damaged as previously set forth herein.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendants, including FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS, for damages, plus interest and all costs of these proceedings, in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional minimum of this Court.

COUNT NINE

INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS/OUTRAGE

- 1. Plaintiffs reallege all allegations contained in this Complaint as if fully set out herein.
- 2. Plaintiffs aver that the actions of the Defendants, including Fictitious Defendants "A" through "O" as described above amount to outrage. The actions of the Defendants were extreme and

outrageous and were done intentionally or recklessly causing severe emotional distress to Plaintiffs. The distress suffered by Plaintiffs was so severe that no reasonable person could be expected to endure it.

- 3. The actions and conduct of the Defendants was so outrageous in character and so extreme in degree as to go beyond all possible bounds of decency and to be regarded as atrocious and utterly intolerable in a civilized society.
- 4. As a result of this conduct, Plaintiffs suffered extreme emotional distress and mental anguish. The conduct of the Defendants, and/or Fictitious Defendants "A" through "O" was of such a nature as to justify an award of punitive damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendants, including FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS, for damages, plus interest and all costs of these proceedings, in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional minimum of this Court.

TED TAYLOR

TEAH O TAVIOR

JARROD D. NICHOLS ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS

PLAINTIFFS DEMAND A TRIAL BY STRUCK JURY.

JARROD D. NICHOLS

OF COUNSEL:

TAYLOR & TAYLOR
2130 Highland Avenue
Birmingham, Alabama 35205
(205) 558-2800 (Telephone)
(205) 558-2860 (Facsimile)

Plaintiffs request that Defendants be served by Certified Mail at the following addresses:

PEOPLES COMMUNITY BANK c/o - Registered Agent 109 E Church Street Columbia, AL 36319

LARRY PITCHFORD 109 East Church Street Columbia, AL 36319

JERRY GULLEDGE 117 Collins Ct Eufaula, AL 36027-6050